

May 24, 2001

about a navigational hazard that could endanger boats.”

Just as wireless users are encouraged to exercise caution when driving and dialing onshore, boaters should keep safety in mind when navigating and dialing.

To recognize National Safe Boating Week, May 19 through May 25, Verizon Wireless asks all boaters to think “safety,” by following these tips:

Safe boating is your first priority. Make sure your phone is positioned where it is easy to see and reach.

Use the speed dialing features on your phone to program frequently called numbers.

Let your wireless network’s voice mail pick up your calls when you’re unable to answer the phone. If you’re heading into a navigational hazard, it’s easy to retrieve your messages later.

Use your wireless phone to notify those on shore of your whereabouts and destination.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) to close the achievement gap with accountability, flexibility, and choice, so that no child is left behind:

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, as the father of two young children in the public school system, I have a vested interest in supporting any measures that will further strengthen the current system. Ensuring that our children have access to every educational opportunity necessary to achieve is my top priority in Congress.

The provisions contained in H.R. 1 will give states and local school districts the flexibility and decision-making authority they need to address the individual needs of their students and teachers. Paperwork mandates and regulations force states and local school districts to sacrifice student achievement in order to comply with bureaucracy; thus, taking time away from teaching. Giving state and local officials additional flexibility helps them tailor programs to more closely meet students’ unique needs and priorities—whether it be through additional focus on teacher training and professional development or additional funding for technology needs or class size reduction. I firmly believe that local school districts, not Washington, know best what the needs of our children are and although the federal government can and should play an important role in our education system, it should not be the guiding force.

In Michigan and throughout the country, an alarming number of children enter school without the language and literacy foundation necessary to succeed in school. Many children are incapable of deciphering that letters make up words and that words carry meaning. This problem spans all socioeconomic backgrounds and leads to children entering school behind their classmates before they even get started. Therefore, I am extremely pleased by the

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

enormous step forward H.R. 1 takes toward focusing on effective, proven methods of reading instruction and triples federal literacy funding from the present \$300 million to \$900 million in 2002. Furthermore, this legislation authorizes \$5 billion over the next five years on reading programs for children between kindergarten and third grade.

At a time when our economy is slowing and we are facing fiscal restraint here in Washington, our commitment to funding education has never been stronger. H.R. 1 provides for a \$4.6 billion increase, which represents an eight percent increase over current year funding for K–12 programs. This is funding that is primarily directed toward the economically disadvantaged. While dollars alone are not the answer, combined with greater local autonomy over how those dollars can be spent, allows for targeted efforts on behalf of every school in my district. This could mean an increase in teacher salaries for the Lansing School District or extra computers for the Saline School District. Ensuring our school districts have the necessary resources to be successful is a positive step in the right direction.

I am voting yes on H.R. 1 because it provides school districts with greater flexibility, a strong focus on reading initiatives and increased funding for quality programs. After listening to the constituents of my district, I am confident that these are reforms that we can all support for the benefit of our children’s future.

STAMP HONORING PAUL LEROY
ROBESON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce House Concurrent Resolution 143, expressing the sense of the Congress that the U.S. Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring Paul Leroy Robeson. Sixty-six of my colleagues have joined me in support of this resolution.

Paul Robeson, a famous African-American athlete, singer, actor, and advocate for the civil rights of people around the world was born on April 9, 1898 in Princeton, New Jersey. After receiving his degree from Columbia Law School in 1923, Paul Robeson left the legal profession for a career in the arts. Paul Robeson is well known for his inspiring performances in musicals, such as *Show Boat*, and theatrical performances, such as Shakespeare’s *Othello*. With his distinctive deep baritone voice, Paul Robeson left audiences around the world captivated.

Paul Robeson’s brilliant on-stage performances were second only to his commitment to eradicating racial and social injustice in the United States and around the world. Paul Robeson used his oratory skills and knowledge of 25 languages to combat racial inequality in this country and around the world. Because of his stance, Paul Robeson was ostracized and disparaged by many.

Even at the risk to his own safety and professional stature, Mr. Robeson stood up

against racial bigotry during a time when segregation was legal in America and lynching was common place.

Paul Robeson never took the easy road in life. Where he could have easily focused solely on his career, Paul Robeson chose to stand up in defiance of the unjust social practices of his time. Paul Robeson forced America to look into a mirror at itself and confront the racial injustice commonly accepted during his lifetime.

In honor of his undying efforts and enduring personal sacrifice, I have introduced this legislation and urge all of my colleagues to join me in this tribute to Paul Robeson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 23, 2001, a visit to the Vice President’s residence away from Capital Hill caused me to unavoidably miss rollcall vote no. 146 (motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1836, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act). Had I been present I would have voted “no.”

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES NEWTON
COOK OF HOLLYWOOD, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the long and fruitful life of Mr. Charley Cook, of Hollywood, Alabama, an extraordinary man whose one hundred and five years have been marked by his love of country, family and God.

Mr. Cook was born in Hollywood, Alabama on May 28, 1896. When he was 21, he volunteered for the Navy and served in the Navy during World War I until 1919 making three trips to French waters. He is believed to be the last living WWI Veteran in Alabama. Mr. Cook also served on the Battleship *Utah*, which the Japanese sunk at Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Cook’s life reads like a chronicle of this nation’s history. He has witnessed Babe Ruth hit his legendary home runs from Yankee Stadium and been in the audience of a vaudeville show starring Eddie Cantor and George Burns. When he finished his service time, he returned to Hollywood, Alabama maintaining his garden until 1995. He voluntarily quit driving at age 99.

I would like to enclose words from his “Armed Guard Detail” certificate, “Members of the Armed Guards . . . may well be proud of this duty. The efficient and courageous performance of this duty, replete with successful encounters with hostile submarines, will insure its indelible inscription in the history of the United States Navy.” We can never afford to forget the victories and sacrifices of Mr. Cook’s generation lest we take for granted the precious freedoms we enjoy every minute of every day.